

Application No. 09/996,161

RXSD 1022-1

In the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

- 1 1. (currently amended) A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer
2 system, the computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable
3 to generate an electrical signal and then to output the electrical signal to the speaker, the
4 speaker operable to convert the electrical signal into a stimulus, the method comprising:
5 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;
6 b) executing the computer program on the computer including providing a digital
7 stimulus signal comprising a combination of a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-
8 stimulus, the first sub-stimulus being within the audible range of humans, the second
9 sub-stimulus being outside of the audible range of humans;
10 c) generating an audible a-stimulus using the digital stimulus signal, the second sub-
11 stimulus being adapted to reduce one or both of harmonic distortion and quantization
12 errors in the audible stimulus; and
13 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the stimulus.

- 1 2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer
2 program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via
3 the Internet.

- 1 3. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of downloading the computer
2 program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via
3 an email.

- 1 4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the act of generating a stimulus
2 includes generating a stimulus from an audio stream that utilizes a larger number of bits
3 per sample of the digital stimulus signal to represent the stimulus than would be utilized
4 to represent the first sub-stimulus.

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- 1 5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first sub-stimulus has an
2 amplitude that is smaller than the amplitude of the second sub-stimulus.
- 1 6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first sub-stimulus includes
2 a Warble tone.
- 1 7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second sub-stimulus
2 includes a dithering signal.
- 1 8. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second sub-stimulus
2 includes white noise.
- 1 9. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second sub-stimulus
2 includes pink noise.
- 1 10. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including:
2 c) sending first data to the server based on said input;
3 f) qualifying the hearing of the user using a routine executed at the server; and
4 g) sending second data to the computer based on said qualifying.
- 1 11. (currently amended) A method of testing the hearing of a user utilizing a computer
2 system, the computer system including a computer and a speaker, the computer operable
3 to output an electrical signal to the speaker, the speaker operable to convert the electrical
4 signal into a stimulus, the method comprising:
5 a) downloading a computer program from a server to the computer;
6 b) executing the computer program on the computer including providing a digital
7 stimulus signal comprising a combination of a first sub-stimulus and a second sub-
8 stimulus, the first sub-stimulus being within the audible range of humans, the second
9 sub-stimulus being outside of the frequency range of the hearing test;

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- 10 c) generating an audible a-stimulus using the digital stimulus signal, the second sub-
11 stimulus being adapted to reduce one or both of harmonic distortion and quantization
12 errors in the audible stimulus; and
13 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the stimulus.

1 12. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the act of downloading the computer
2 program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via
3 the Internet.

1 13. (original) The method of claim 11, wherein the act of downloading the computer
2 program includes transferring the computer program from the server to the computer via
3 an email.

1 14. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the act of generating a
2 stimulus includes generating a stimulus from an audio stream that utilizes a larger
3 number of bits per sample of the digital stimulus signal to represent the stimulus than
4 would be utilized to represent the first sub-stimulus.

1 15. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the first sub-stimulus has an
2 amplitude that is smaller than the amplitude of the second sub-stimulus.

1 16. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the first sub-stimulus
2 includes a Warble tone.

1 17. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the second sub-stimulus
2 includes a dithering signal.

1 18. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the second sub-stimulus
2 includes white noise.

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1 19. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the second sub-stimulus
2 includes pink noise.

1 20. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, further including:
2 c) sending first data to the server based on said input;
3 f) qualifying the hearing of the user using a routine executed at the server; and
4 g) sending second data to the computer based on said qualifying.

1 21. (currently amended) A program storage device that contains computer readable
2 instructions that, when executed by a computer system having a volume control, tests the
3 hearing of a user by:
4 a) setting the volume control of the computer;
5 b) providing a digital stimulus signal comprising a combination of a first sub-
6 stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, the first sub-stimulus being within the audible
7 range of humans, the second sub-stimulus being outside of the audible range of
8 humans;
9 c) generating an audible a-stimulus using the digital stimulus signal, the second sub-
10 stimulus being adapted to reduce one or both of harmonic distortion and quantization
11 errors in the audible stimulus; and
12 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the stimulus.

1 22. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the first sub-
2 stimulus has an amplitude that is smaller than the amplitude of the second sub-stimulus.

1 23. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the first sub-
2 stimulus includes a Warble tone.

1 24. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the second
2 sub-stimulus includes a dithering signal.

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1 25. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the second
2 sub-stimulus includes white noise.

1 26. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the second
2 sub-stimulus includes pink noise.

1 27. (currently amended) A program storage device that contains computer readable
2 instructions that, when executed by a computer system having a volume control, tests the
3 hearing of a user by:

4 a) setting the volume control of the computer;

5 b) providing a digital stimulus signal comprising a combination of a first sub-
6 stimulus and a second sub-stimulus, the first sub-stimulus being within the audible
7 range of humans, the second sub-stimulus being outside of the frequency range of the
8 hearing test;

9 c) generating an audible a-stimulus using the digital stimulus signal, the second sub-
10 stimulus being adapted to reduce one or both of harmonic distortion and quantization
11 errors in the audible stimulus;

12 d) receiving an input from the user that indicates that the user heard the stimulus.

1 28. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the act of
2 generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus from an audio stream that utilizes a
3 larger number of bits per sample of the digital stimulus signal to represent the stimulus
4 than would be utilized to represent the first sub-stimulus.

1 29. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the first sub-
2 stimulus has an amplitude that is smaller than the amplitude of the second sub-stimulus.

1 30. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the first sub-
2 stimulus includes a Warble tone.

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1 31. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the second
2 sub-stimulus includes a dithered signal.

1 32. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the second
2 sub-stimulus includes white noise.

1 33. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 27, wherein the second
2 sub-stimulus includes pink noise.

1 34. (previously presented) The program storage device of claim 21, wherein the act of
2 generating a stimulus includes generating a stimulus from an audio stream that utilizes a
3 larger number of bits per sample of the digital stimulus signal to represent the stimulus
4 than would be utilized to represent the first sub-stimulus.

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